



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
AUG 19 1998

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The Honorable Roy Blunt
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
Federal Building
302 Joplin Street, Suite 302
Joplin, MO 64801

Dear Congressman Blunt:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Kenneth R. Fannan, regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

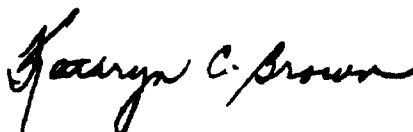
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The Honorable Roy Blunt

Page 2

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

ROY BLUNT
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

ROOM 508 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6536

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

June 8, 1998

Ms. Regina Keeney
Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Consumer Complaints, Mail Stop 1600A2
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

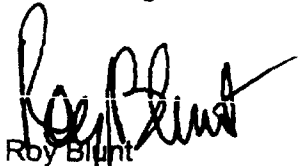
Dear Ms. Keeney:

Please find enclosed a Privacy Act Release Statement signed by a constituent of mine, Ken Fannan, concerning the "universal access fee" on his phone bill.

Please review the enclosed information in order to provide my office with a written basis of reply. All correspondence for Mr. Fannan should be addressed to my constituent advocacy staff at Federal Building, 302 Joplin Street, Suite 302, Joplin, Missouri 64801.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
Member of Congress

cc: Ken Fannan

Enclosure

RB:sd

*CCB
cc that
action
4561
www
see F
access*

Privacy Act Release Statement

COPY

I respectfully request and authorize Congressman Roy Blunt, of Missouri's Seventh Congressional District, to act on my behalf under the 1974 Privacy Act Law to request and receive information from the proper officials regarding _____

*A wrongful charge on my
phone bill! I guess this is
the best way!*

Heunth R Fannan
(Signature)

5-29-98
(Date)

(Signature of guardian, if different than the person requesting information)

Personal Information: (Please print or write legibly)

HEUN R FANNAN
Name: First Middle Initial Last

498-465-928
Social Security #

401 E-32
Address

Joplin MO 64804
City State Zip Code

Jasper
County

Civil Service # and/or Veterans I.D. #

10/30/44
Date of Birth

417-782-6316
Home Phone Work Phone

Please return this form to:

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Attn: Constituent Advocate
Hall Federal Building
302 Joplin Street, Room 302
Joplin, MO 64801

Or, you may fax the form to the office to expedite your request. Please mail or hand-deliver the original. FAX: (417) 781-2832

If you have any questions, contact the Joplin district office: (417) 781-1041